King Street Primary & Pre - School

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21st April 2023

Dear Parents /Carers,

Welcome back after the Easter break. The children have so much to tell us, from egg hunts to holidays to the amount of chocolate they could consume in a day! They really have had a lovely break and I am sure our families would say they have enjoyed that much needed break too.

We continue to strive to support all of our families through the advice we can offer and through the use of the community Hub. Whilst we do receive donations from Aldi for our pantry, we also welcome any donations that families could make to ensure this resource is kept well stocked at all times. If you have any tinned, dried or ‘snack’ type food we would be grateful for any donations. Please send these to school with your child or bring to the school office. Thank you.

Teachers have sent out a copy of our Summer Newsletter this week, this is a useful reference for the topics your child will be learning this term and also a reminder of PE and reading days. It is the turn of Year 5 and Year 6 to have Outdoor Education this term. Year 5 start next week and a letter has been issued to parents and Year 6 will be later in the term. If you have any questions about your child’s education, please remember staff are available to speak to by email or phone.

**Strike Action – 27th April**

We will not be closed for the upcoming strike action on 27th April. There are future strike dates planned and we will confirm closer to those dates whether it will affect any classes in school.

**Drop off/pick up**

I would like to give a gentle reminder to parents about supervision of children at drop off and pick up. We continue to have a number of children who run around the yard unsupervised or use the equipment before and after school. This has led to some of the equipment in our EYFS being damaged. Please ensure that children are supervised at all times and help ensure children do not get hurt and equipment does not get broken. School budgets are very tight and we are always disappointed having to spend unnecessary money replacing items broken by unsupervised children.

**Library competition**

We are delighted to announce that one of our children, Isabelle Dixon, won the colouring competition at the Spennymoor Library. Isabelle entered a colourful design, and for her brilliant effort, has been awarded a lovely Easter egg! Well done Isabelle!

**Weardale visit**

For the families of children in Y4 and Y5 who are attending the Weardale residential in July, we are holding an information event on Tuesday 25th April at 4pm. If your child attended last year, there is no requirement to attend, unless you require a refresh of the information. The presentation will be from Weardale staff and will talk about the opportunities available to the children. A kit list has already been issued to families but further copies of these will be available on the night upon request. Closer to the date of travel, we will also request any medical information and ask that medical forms are completed. If you have not yet returned your Weardale consent form, copies will also be available on the night.

**Government phone alert**

The government are testing an emergency alert on the 23rd April 2023. This alert will be sent to people’s mobile devices at 3pm. The message will say: This is a test of emergency alerts, a new UK government service that will warn you if there is a life-threatening emergency nearby. This is not a real alert. This alert is a test. You do not need to do anything. All mobile phones and tablets will get this alert. The government does not need to know your phone number to send you this alert. It will go out to every device in the UK. Your mobile phone or tablet does not have to have Wi-Fi or mobile data to get the text message. You can choose to turn off emergency alerts if you want to. To turn off the alert you need to:

• Find emergency alerts in your settings

• Turn off settings saying severe alerts and extreme alerts.

If this does not work, or you cannot find where your settings are, you can use a helpline for the phone you have, or take your mobile into a phone shop. If you know anyone who has a secret mobile phone, please tell them about this. If they turn their phone off or on airplane mode this will also stop any messages coming through.

**Adult outdoor/well-being sessions**

Next Friday we are starting our adult outdoor adventures and well being sessions where the adults of our families can enjoy some time outside, led by qualified instructors with all transport and equipment provided. We now have a group of 10 adults so only have space for a few more - if you would like to join please speak to Mrs Livesley or email the school office.

The current plan is to take the group to Hamsterley Forest for a meet and greet session (with tea and snacks) on Friday 28th April. This would be a 9am collection from school and arrive back at school for 12:30pm. At this session you spend time getting to know the others in your group and will plan the future sessions together. You will get to meet Mark Fletcher who is the owner of Endless Adventure and he promises that you will leave the session having had a wonderful time with any nerves you had, completely gone! The sessions are aimed at everyone. No experience is required and no specialist clothing is required- just something you are comfortable in. We all know just how much our children love their outdoor Education sessions and would really like our adults in the community to enjoy it too.

Whilst the activities for future sessions will be decided upon and planned together at the 1st session the dates for the sessions are as follows: 28th April, 5th May, 12th May, 19th May, 9th June, 16th June, 23rd June and 30th June.

We do hope that many of you can make it - nature is a great way to look after our wellbeing.

**Spennymoor Football Club.**

We have issued information this week regarding a free entrance for children to watch the ladies team play on 23rd April. All children must be accompanied by an adult but they are hoping that lots of families can attend and support the team. We hope you can make it.

Finally, we are delighted that we have been awarded an ‘International Award’ in the recognition of the work we do to promote the wider world to our children. We have made pen pals around the world and children have had the opportunity to speak to visitors from all over the world and even get a taste of new languages. As part of this work we have applied for funding from the ‘Turing Scheme’ to take a large group of children to India next year. This would be an amazing opportunity for children to travel to another county and compare the language and cultures to our own and hopefully make some life long friends. We are aware that the application process is very competitive with schools from all over the county applying for limited funds but we have our fingers (and toes) crossed that we are successful. We will find out towards the end of term and then we can start making arrangements and asking children in our current Year 4 and 5 who would like to attend. We are very excited about the potential of such an opportunity.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please speak to class teachers on the yard or make an appointment to come into school to speak to them. We are here to help you and your family.

We are always looking for volunteers to help in our school community, if you have the time and would like to help out (there are many roles available) please contact the school office for a volunteer information pack.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher